

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04

OPR-02 SY-10 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 /123 W

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R 232208 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9966

INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

UNCLAS CARACAS 4448

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS VE

SUBJECT: STUDENT DISORDERS CONTINUE

REF: CARACAS 4312

1. LATEST AND ONE OF MOST SERIOUS INCIDENTS IN RECENT WAVE OF HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY DISTURBANCES OCCURRED AT CENTRAL UNIVERSITY IN CARACAS MAY 22 WHEN EIGHT BLUE COLLAR EMPLOYEES OF UNIVERSITY WERE INJURED IN EXPLOSION OF MEAT TRUCK BELONGING TO CADA SUPER-MARKET CHAIN. GROUP OF YOUTHS HAD REPORTEDLY CAPTURED BUS, TAKEN IT TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE, AND SET IT ON FIRE ; EXPLOSION OCCURRED WHILE WORKERS TRYING TO EXTINGUISH FLAMES. THIS INCIDENT HAS MET WITH CONDEMNATION FROM ALL PARTS OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM, WITH COMMUNIST DAILY TRIBUNA POPULAR BLAMING " ULTRA- LEFTISTS" AND MOVEMENT TO SOCIALISM (MAS) DAILY PUNTO AND LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MIR) SUSPECTING RIGHTIST AGENTS PROVOCATEURS. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND WORKERS REPORTEDLY PLANNING DEMONSTRATION TODAY (MAY 23) TO PROTEST INCIDENT. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING UNIVERSITY, BUS- LOAD OF STUDENTS WAS DETAINED BY POLICE FOR ATTEMPTING TO INTERCEPT AND BURN POLICE VEHICLE.

2. DISTURBANCES INVOLVING SEVEN CARACAS HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED, INCLUDING TAKEOVER OF THREE NIGHT SCHOOLS BY
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STUDENTS PROTESTING MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFORMS, AND ROCAFUU
THROWING INCIDENT INVOLVING ABOUT 80 STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER
SCHOOL.

3. MANY INTERIOR CITIES CONTINUE TO BE BESET WITH STUDENT
DISTURBANCES, INCLUDING BARQUISIMETO, SAN FERNANDO DE APUTRE,
CORO, PUNTO FIJO, VALERA, AND MATURIN. NUMEROUS INJURIES TO
YOUTHS AND POLICE HAVE BEEN REPORTED, AND CLASSES HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED IN SEVERAL CITIES. IN BARQUISIMETO NATIONAL GUARD
HAS BEEN CALLED IN TO ASSIST POLICE. AMONG REASONS CITED FOR
DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PROTESTS OVER EXPULSION OF STUDENTS AND
DEATH OF STUDENT IN PREVIOUS DISORDERS, PROTESTS ABOUT
LACK OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND GENERAL PROTESTS
AGAINST GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY OF ANDES
IN MERIDA HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY FOLLOWING REPEATED
TAKEOVERS OF FACILITIES BY STUDENTS.

4. EXCEPT FOR BURNING OF CADA TRUCK IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT
THESE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN TARGETED AGAINST PROPERTY INVOLVING
U. S. INTERESTS.
DEVINE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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